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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

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TOPIC Winter Exercises of the 19th Gds Mecz Div and the 18th Mecz Div

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 19 April 1955REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 16 March 1955, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne (5173) in Halberstadt was only partially occupied.

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2. Soviet units moved to the wooded area east of Tangerhuetten in the Weissewarthe Forest during the night of 12/13 March. In the morning of 13 March, it was determined that the woods east of Sophienhof were cordoned off by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. A truck towing a 57-mm AT gun and several soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen there. Noises of tank engines were heard from the woods. Jechel residents stated that field kitchens picked up water on 13 March. The vehicles had come from a southwesterly direction. the Weissewarthe Forest was occupied by Soviet troops with trucks and AT guns. The units reportedly left toward Tangerhuetten during the night of 15 March. Imprints of tracks of 8 to 10 tanks and approximately 30 make-shift bays for trucks, which had been filled up with earth, were seen in the woods.

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3. It was learned that during the night of 18 March, all units from the Artillerie Kaserne (5341) in Perleberg left for Camp Schweinrich at the Wittstock training grounds. Elements with about 5 tanks were allegedly entrained in Perleberg while the bulk of the units left by road. Between 0900 and 1400 on 24 March, 6 x 57-mm and 3 x 85-mm AT guns, 6 x 120-mm mortars, 10 armored personnel carriers, 3 BA-64 armored scout cars and approximately 40 trucks including some occupied by troops entered the Artillerie Kaserne.

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During the night of 23/24 March, the tanks allegedly returned to the installation. Then noise of tanks was heard from the direction of the installation at 0330. In the afternoon of 24 March, the installation was occupied to capacity.

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4. During the night of 17 March, elements of the units stationed in the Fliegerhorst installation (5342) in Perleberg reportedly left by road. They returned to the installation during the night of 23/24 March, one troop train was seen entering the installation. In the afternoon of 24 March, the installation was again occupied to capacity.²

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1. [] Comment. The exercise involved units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div which , according to previous reports, conducted a winter exercise in the Letzling Heath between 13 and 16 March, []

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[] units from Halberstadt also participated in the exercise and this is confirmed by the present observations. []

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2. [] Comment. These observations tend to indicate that the winter exercise of the 18th Mecz Div in the northern portion of the Wittstock training grounds and northeastward lasted from 18 to 23 March. []

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